Setting up of a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority

24. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of setting up of a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority to enforce guidelines and regulations on Television and Radio contents; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including composition of the authority?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration in the Ministry.

Implementation of CAS

25. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the experiment to implement CAS in South Delhi has failed and even the Delhi Government has stated that consumers do not like CAS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to postpone implementation of CAS in the metropolitan cities from 1st January, 2004;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the fate of those who have already installed set top boxes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) The State Governments of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal had approached the Central Government for deferment/withdrawal of Conditional Access System (CAS), citing various reasons relating to consumer's interests, including issue of pricing of pay channels, Set Top Boxes (STBs) and terms and conditions for procurement of STBs. Besides, during the course of implementation of CAS, a deep divide was also noticed among the stake holders, *viz.* Broadcasters, Multi Service Operators and Local Cable Operators, impinging on the consumer's interests. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI),